

**Claims:**

35 1 – 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) A method for ensuring a connection to a configuration protocol server on a data network by a customer premises equipment via a network connection, the method comprising the steps of:

5 issuing a request for a customer premises equipment network address from the customer premises equipment to the configuration protocol server via the ~~the~~ network connection;

the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment by sending a temporary network address to the customer premises equipment.

24. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 23 further comprising the step of sending a lease time for the customer premises equipment network address limiting the time of validity of the temporary network address.

25. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 24 further comprising the steps of:

issuing a request to renew the temporary network address when the lease time expires; and

5 the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment by sending an acknowledge message.

26. (Original) A method as claimed in Claim 25 further comprising the steps of:

10 when the network connection determines that the connection can be made to the configuration protocol, the network connection sending a NACK message declining to acknowledge the request to renew the temporary network address;

the customer premises equipment receiving the NACK message and sending a request for the customer premises equipment network address; and

the network connection communicating the request for the customer premises equipment network address to the configuration protocol server.

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27-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Previously Presented) A method for ensuring a connection to a configuration protocol server on a data network by a customer premises equipment via a network connection, the method comprising the steps of:

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issuing a request for a customer premises equipment network address from the customer premises equipment to the configuration protocol server via the the network connection;

the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment by sending a temporary network address to the customer premises equipment;

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sending a lease time for the customer premises equipment network address limiting the time of validity of the temporary network address;

issuing a request to renew the temporary network address when the lease time expires;

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and

the network connection determining whether a connection can be made to the configuration protocol server, and if not, responding to the customer premises equipment by sending an acknowledge message.

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32. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in Claim 31 further comprising the steps of:  
when the network connection determines that the connection can be made to the configuration protocol, the network connection sending a NACK message declining to acknowledge the request to renew the temporary network address;

the customer premises equipment receiving the NACK message and sending a request for the customer premises equipment network address; and

the network connection communicating the request for the customer premises equipment network address to the configuration protocol server.

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